(ख) इस मामले में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की रिपोर्ट अभी तक प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

Guidelines to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas

1420. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines exist to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas;

(b) if so, the details of such guidelines issued to States Governments;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up to increase forestation in the marginal areas of reserve forests; and

(d) the details of such plans to enhance afforestation in depleted areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As such no guidelines have been issued by the Ministry to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas. However, as per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the central Government would required to be obtained for use of forest land to any non-forest purpose including establishing a brick kiln. Further, this Ministry does not permit normally diversion of forest land for any such non-forest activity unless it is site specific and diversion is unavoidable.

(c) and (d) Through the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, the Ministry has drawn schemes for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities with special attention to degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas. The important schemes are — Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEP), Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme (AOFFP) and Non-Timber Forest Produce Scheme (NTFP). The tentative allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan under these Schemes are Rs. 334 crores for IAEP, Rs. 230 crores for AOFFP and Rs. 120 crores fror NTFP.

Torture of Elephants in the Great Elephant March in Kerala

1421. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elephants are subjected to a great torture in the Great Elephant March in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have received many complaints in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to stop this practice once for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government of Kerala have reported that it is not true that elephants are tortured during the Great Elephant March. The March is organised by the State Tourism Department using the captive elephants in the State. Ill treatment of elephants is guarded against with the assistance of eminent elephant experts and elephant welfare organisations.

(b) The Kerala Tourism Department has received complaints and criticism from domestic and international sources. A campaign against the event is reported to be spearheaded in Europe by the "Born Free Foundation". Complaints have also been received from "Shankers for Animals, Chennai".

(c) The Government of Kerala has decided to discontinue the Great Elephant March from 2000 A.D. and the last one will be held in January 1999 in view of committments already made to the tour operators.